

FROM: The American Political Science Association
Dr. Evron M. Kirkpatrick, Executive Director
1726 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.
DUpont 7-8585

11-2779

FOR RELEASE: 8 AM - Friday
September 11, 1959

(New York Contact)
Kay Hart
342 Madison Avenue - Suite 702
New York 17, N. Y.
OXford 7-1750

TWO SENATORS AND TWO CONGRESSMEN CHOSEN FOR
AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION
"CONGRESSIONAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS"

Washington, D. C....Senators Hubert H. Humphrey (D.) of Minnesota,
and John J. Williams (R.) of Delaware, and former Congressman and now
Senator Kenneth B. Keating (R.) of New York, and Congressman Carl Vinson
(D.) of Georgia, were chosen today by the American Political Science Associa-
tion to receive the first Congressional Distinguished Service Awards. The
Awards were made to the legislators at luncheon ceremonies in the Mayflower
Hotel in Washington, D. C.

The two Republicans and two Democrats who were honored were
given the Awards by Dr. Pendleton Herring, President of the Social Science
Research Council, and a member of the nominating committee. The Awards
were designed by Dr. Herring, and executed by Ralph Menconi, the sculptor.
Dr. Herring said, "In making the Awards, factors that weighed heavily were:
(1) devotion to the public welfare joined with a firm grasp of the skills re-
quired of a law-maker; (2) high competence measured in terms of effective-
ness and concrete accomplishment; (3) constructive imagination, hard-headed

acumen and a capacity to formulate and advance objectives of national policy and yet be mindful of the welfare of constituents back home, and finally (4) the respect of colleagues based on the day-to-day contacts that reveal the true worth of the individual.

"Both Houses of Congress have many members who meet these qualifications. It is hoped that the Awards presented today will call attention to the important and dedicated service rendered not only by those to whom these Awards are given but also the many members of Congress who share the qualities for which the Awards are made."

Former Senator William Benton of Connecticut, who first suggested these Awards in an article in 1955 and whose William Benton Foundation has underwritten the program, also addressed the members of the American Political Science Association and distinguished Washington officials. Senator Benton said: "Einstein once remarked that the world was more likely to die of bad politics than bad physics. It would seem to follow that good politics should be duly honored if we can find a way to do it.

"The members of Congress are the most remarkable group that I have ever met anywhere. In integrity, intelligence and hard work they rank above any other group with which I have ever worked. Yet many of the greatest Congressional heroes are relatively unsung and unappreciated. Legislators who are willing to raise phony or futile issues simply for the sake of publicity, and who hunt headlines cynically, all too often receive disproportionate news attention -- while those who perform the non-glamorous drudgery which is the

heart of effective work by Congress too often remain virtually unknown. Indeed, since the founding of the Republic disparaging Congress has been a popular American sport. Yet Congress is the very center of our democratic way of life. I am hopeful that these Awards will enhance the prestige of Congress -- and of those members such as our winners today who contribute most to making it the great and effective body it is."

Presiding at the luncheon was John A. Vieg, of Pomona College, Calif., Vice President of the American Political Science Association. Principal speaker was Hugh Elsbree, Director of the Legislative Reference Service for the Library of Congress. Speaking of political science research on Congress, Dr. Elsbree said that while this research had shed much new light on the role of Congress in the governmental process, "it is to be hoped that political scientists will in the future pay more attention than they so far have to the substantive aspects of the hundreds of important issues of public policy with which the Congress must deal."

Dr. Evron Kirkpatrick, Executive Director of the American Political Science Association stated that the committee of judges consisted of: Grayson Kirk, President, Columbia University, New York, Chairman; A. Hollis Edens, President, Duke University, Durham, N. C.; Ernest S. Griffith, Dean, School of International Service, American University, Washington, D. C.; Pendleton Herring, President, Social Science Research Council, New York; Harold D. Lasswell, Professor of Law and Political Science, Yale University, New

- 4 -

Haven, Conn.; Edward H. Litchfield, Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa.; John D. Millett, President, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; Harold W. Stoke, President, Queens College, New York.

Dr. Kirkpatrick announced that the Awards will be granted every two years, for each biennial session of the Congress. Nominations for the next set of Awards should be submitted to the Association members by May 30, 1960.

* * *